

ROTOVUE

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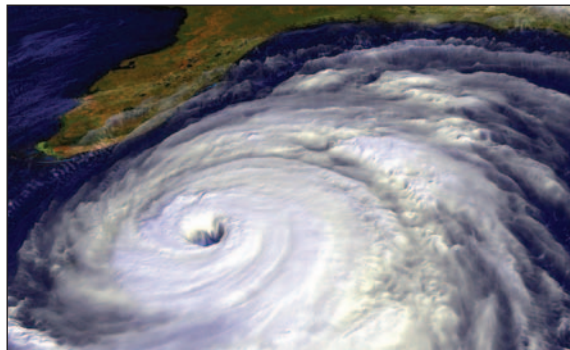
MARINES DEPLOY



'Fighting
Griffins,'
'Warriors'
deploy, look
to bring the
fight to
terror's front
door

SEE PAGE 3

HURRICANE SEASON



Information about preparing
you and your family for disaster

SEE PAGES 14,15

CANCER SURVIVOR

'Ironhorse' proves heart by with-
standing 24-hour endurance ride

SEE PAGE 28



Welcome Home Marines



SEE PAGE 2

FLIGHTLINES

PPV town hall meeting here

Representatives from the company handling the privatization of base housing are holding a series of town hall meetings Aug. 22 and 23 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Station Theatre.

The purpose of the meetings is to discuss lease agreements and renovation dates.

Maximum participation is encouraged.

For more information, go to the company Web site at www.atlanticmcc.com.

Back to school at SNCO Club

The Station Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club is having a Back to School Family Night at 5 p.m. on Friday.

The menu is barbecue pork and fried chicken with all the fixings.

Tickets cost \$7.95 for members, \$9.95 for non members, \$3.95 for kids of members, \$4.95 for kids of non members and children four and under eat free.

There will also be entertainment for the kids.

For more information, call the SNCO Club at 449-6707.

Motorcycle safety classes

Motorcycle Foundation Safety Courses are being conducted Aug. 18-19 and Sept. 22-23 in building AS-320, room 104.

Call the Station Department of Safety and Standardization at 449-6675 or 449-5440 for more information about the classes.

Motorcycle instructors

The Station Department of Safety and Standardization needs active duty or Department of Defense employees to teach the Motorcycle Foundation Safety Course.

Criteria includes at least two years remaining on Station, written command approval, have complet-

ed the beginner course, have a motorcycle endorsement, own a motorcycle, have a minimum of two years riding experience and meet the teaching requirement of one class per quarter.

Call Jesse Turner at 449-6676 for more information.

Wheels of Freedom

The Station Department of Safety and Standardization is conducting the Wheels of Freedom Aug. 22-23 on the flight line in front of hangar AS-4108.

This "mini Safety Expo" features a closed circuit course on which Marines will have the opportunity to drive a variety of high-performance vehicles.

In addition, numerous attractions will be available including: the Seatbelt Convincer, the drunk drivers' course, the Governor's Safety display and the DARE vehicles.

H&HS fund raising basket

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron is raffling a "night on the town basket" to raise funds for the the H&HS Marine Corps ball.

The basket includes a one night stay at the Sleep Inn, dinner for two at Logans, two movie tickets, a \$25 gift certificate for a flower arrangement, candles, snacks and spa salts.

The winner will be announced Aug. 31 and each ticket costs \$5.

For more information or to purchase a ticket, contact Chief Warrant Officer Shuck at 449-7344.

Annual fallen friends 5k race

Osprey Pioneers Memorial 5th Annual Fallen Friends 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run/Walk is Saturday, Sept. 17, at Maysville Elementary School.

Race proceeds fund scholarships for deserving seniors at local high schools.

To register online, visit <http://www.eccr.us/FallenFriends5K/FallenFriends2005.pdf>.

Education seminars

The local satellite campus of the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education is conducting a seminar in October to support students enrolled in the Expeditionary Warfare School or the Command and Staff distance education programs.

Seminars will meet here or Camp Lejeune one night per week for two to three hours, and vary in length from 31 to 34 weeks depending on the program.

For further information, contact DSN 751-9309 or e-mail james.r.wheeler.ctr@usmc.mil.

Online flag conditions

Weather information and flag conditions are available at <http://weather.lejeune.usmc.mil>.

For more information, contact the Department of Safety and Standardization.

West Virginia benefits

West Virginian servicemembers are eligible for a \$600 bonus

if they served in a combat zone and received a campaign badge or expeditionary medal, or they may receive a \$400 bonus if they had active service outside a combat zone.

Surviving relatives are eligible for a \$2,000 bonus if a veteran's death is connected with the service and resulted in the time periods specified.

For complete instructions about applying, go to <http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/va/forms.htm>.

Safety correction

In the July 27 edition of the RotoVue a story about Station squadrons receiving safety awards cited Staff Sgt. Kurtis D. Voss as the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 supply chief.

Voss is the Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron-2 supply chief.

On the cover

Corporal Aundrey Owens, a Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 avionics technician from Erie, Pa., meets his three-month-old daughter, Alexis, for the first time at their return ceremony July 27. See page 3 for more.

Civilian Spotlight



Lance Cpl. Ezekiel R. Kitandwe

Carlos Young, from Topsail Island, N.C., cuts a Marine's hair at the Marine Aircraft Group-26 barber shop Aug. 1. Young is the shop's manager and has been working on Station for 11 years. Although he has never been in the military, he said the best part about working here is the steady business, the health and dental benefits.



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Executive Officer
Vacant

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Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville

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Sgt. Juan Vara

AL ASAD, Iraq – Brigadier Gen. Robert E. Milstead Jr., (left), 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) commanding general, pins the Legion of Merit Award on Col. Thomas M. Murray, outgoing Marine Aircraft Group-26 commanding officer, during the MAG-26 change of command ceremony here Aug. 7.

MAG-26 changes hands in Iraq; Murray moves on

Sgt. Juan Vara
contributor

AL ASAD, Iraq -- In a ceremony held here Aug. 7, Col. Thomas M. Murray relinquished command of Marine Aircraft Group 26 to Col. David J. Mollahan.

Murray, from St. Paul, Minn., assumed command of the group in October 2003. "It has been my privilege for the last two years to be the custodian of this institution," he said. "I'll remember it for the rest of my life, and I'm eternally grateful for that opportunity."

Mollahan, from Ontario, Ore., joins the group after serving as the chief of staff of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.

"I'm extremely honored and proud to be a part of this organization and to be part of the great legacy that is MAG-26," he said. "[Marine Aircraft Group-26] has been humming along as a well oiled machine for a long time, and I will make sure it stays that way."

During the ceremony Murray was presented with the Legion of Merit for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as the commanding officer of MAG-26.

Throughout Murray's tenure as commanding officer the group conducted pre-deployment preparations that included three pre-deployment site surveys, three command post exercises, a mission rehearsal exercise, nine revised combined arms exercises at the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and two Desert Talon exercises at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz.

The group also maintained a close relationship with MAG-16 units that were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the dividends of that relationship were seen March 1 when MAG-26 assumed MAG-16's mission here in a seamless transfer of authority. Under Murray's command, MAG-26 became the largest Marine aircraft group in the Corps with more than 12 squadrons, more than 3,100 Marines and Sailors, and more than 200 aircraft.

"This isn't easy to give up," said Murray. "It becomes family after a while. What makes it a lot easier is that I'm turning it over to Colonel Mollahan."

An experienced CH-46E Sea Knight pilot, Murray, call sign "Razor," is slated to be the chief of staff of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).



Lance Cpl. Ezekiel R. Kitandwe

Lance Cpl. Michael Adams, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 expediter and Boise, Idaho, native, spends a few quiet moments alone with his wife, Amy, before his deployment to Iraq Aug. 7. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 also deployed.

HML/A-167, HMM-266: Iraq or bust

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer and
Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondents

Approximately 250 servicemembers from Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 and 150 Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Sunday as part of a continuing transfer of assets between Marine Aircraft Group-29 and Marine Aircraft Group-26 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The "Warriors" are scheduled to relieve the "Gunrunners" of HML/A-269, who are currently operating under MAG-26, while the "Fighting Griffins" will deploy for the second time in 11 months.

"I'm proud of what the Marines have been able to accomplish in a short period of time," said Lt. Col. Joseph E. George, HMM-266 commanding officer. "We are a young squadron. Over half of our personnel joined us in the last six months."

Among the missions HML/A-167 will be accomplishing, squadron com-

manding officer Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Killmeier said that sometimes "presence" is the most important.

"As a light/attack squadron we can provide close air support and lay down fire on a target," said Killmeier. "But sometimes our allied guys on the ground just want the insurgents to hear the rotor blades. If we can save a person's life just by the sound the helicopter makes, then we've surely accomplished something."

According to George, HMM-266 will operate out of Al Asad airbase.

"Our mission will be to provide assault support to the (Marine Expeditionary Force), that's the textbook answer," he said. "Moving Marines around the battlefield. Our routes are never certain and our destinations are never certain, but it's positive we are going to be flying."

Sergeant Maj. Donald G. de Hagara, "Fighting Griffins" sergeant major, said HMM-266 will be replacing HMM-264 and continuing the great work they were doing there.

He said the crews can expect to be flying in harm's way and he would like nothing more than to be able to accompany them beyond the safety of the base.

Seeing the junior pilots and maintainers mature is what George said he most looks forward to during the deployment, along with the ability to focus on the job at hand.

"If we can say we took care of our Marines, provided them leadership, experience and maturity, then this will have been a successful deployment," he said. "To know that we accomplished all of our assigned missions and brought everybody back home is what it's all about."

For Lance Cpl. Joseph Perez, a "Warriors" avionics technician, it may not be all about getting the job done, but missions do come first.

"The last time I saw my family was at least two months ago, and it will be no-telling how long before the next time," said Perez. "I'll miss them with all my heart, but we have an important job to do and I'm ready and willing to do it."

First wave of HML/A-269, HMM-264 come home

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Approximately 30 advance-party servicemembers from Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 and HMM-264 returned home July 27 and August 6.

According to 1st Lt. Lee W. Hemming, a "Gunrunners" AH-1W Cobra pilot, the squadron performed a variety of missions during roughly seven months of operations, including close air support, convoy escorts and reconnaissance.

"We didn't have any spare bodies, and we flew more hours than a full squadron," said Hemming. "I think that per aircraft and per pilot, we did well."

The "Gunrunners" were deployed as a partial squadron with Marine Aircraft Group-26 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since Jan. 17, said Gunnery Sgt. Forrest B. Sibley, the advance party's senior enlisted servicemember.

"The main body should be back in late August," said Sibley.

According to Maj. Travis M. Provost, HMM-264 executive officer, the squadron accomplished their mission while deployed.

"We flew some (casualty evacuations) and troop insertions," said Gunnery Sgt. David Neil, senior enlisted Marine with the advance party. "All in all, I think we did very well."



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

(Left to Right) Sergeant Major Lewis Summerville, Station sergeant major, Gen. William L. Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, and Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer, pose for a photo during morning chow at the Station Dining Facility on July 28. Nyland is visiting several Marine Corps bases to thank Marines.

‘Spider’ caught in chow hall

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

General William L. “Spider” Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, attended a breakfast here with approximately 50 Station servicemembers on July 28.

Nyland, a former 2d Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, is retiring after a 36-year career and is visiting a wide-range of duty stations as a way to thank Marines for their dedicated service, said Nyland.

“This is a chance for me to swing through and say ‘thanks’ to Marines,” explained Nyland. “The operational tempo is high and demanding, and Marines make sacrifices for country and Corps.”

Nyland was joined by Station Commanding Officer Col. Stephen L. Forand and led a spirited discussion during the meal. Afterwards, Nyland spoke to the Marines about the changes he has witnessed throughout his distinguished career.

“What’s changed most is the people,” said Nyland. “We had great Marines when I was a second lieutenant, but you’ve taken it to a new high. You’ve pushed the bar to another level.”

Station Dining Facility Marines worked hard to ensure that the breakfast went off without a hitch, serving Nyland the same quality food servicemembers here have come to expect, said Staff Sgt. John W. Tuliper, mess hall staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron safety

officer.

Lance Cpl. Aaron Stepp, H&HS food service specialist, said he served Nyland one of the most important omelets he’s made.

“Oh, God, I was nervous,” said Stepp. “But it turned out pretty good.”

“I had a little theory that (Nyland) was human, just like everybody else,” added Cpl. Keith “Cookie” Sydnor, H&HS food service specialist. “I was right; it was a lot of fun.”

Nyland greeted each of the servicemembers after the meal with handshakes and photo opportunities, leaving all the Marines with a simple message: “Don’t ever forget your Corps,” he stated.

Assistant SECNAV on deck to view Osprey



courtesy photo

John J. Young, Jr., assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, stands in front of an MV-22 Osprey during his visit to Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 on July 27. Young toured VMX-22 as part of a fact-finding mission coinciding with the completion of operational evaluation on the MV-22 Osprey. “I wanted to get a sense of (the Osprey’s evaluation),” said Young. “It’s certainly getting good numbers.” Young operated the V-22 simulator and received a brief from VMX-22’s Commanding Officer, Col. Glenn M. Walters.

Local artist creates new Marine Corps legacy

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Lee Teter's legacy lives on. His name may not sound familiar, his face wouldn't stand out in a crowd, and he isn't a musician or a writer. Yet, his legend lingers on in many servicemembers hearts.

Teter painted "Reflections," the famous painting depicting a man at the Vietnam Memorial interacting with the likeness of the servicemembers who paid the last full measure of devotion.

Now, a local resident is recreating Teter's legacy for Marines stationed here and at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

With Station Commanding Officer Col. Stephen L. Forand, and members of the New River and Camp Lejeune Officers' Wives Clubs present, Marsha Mills unveiled "All's Well" and "At Last," two of four paintings depicting Marines returning home from deployment, on Aug. 7.

"She did a fantastic job of capturing the feeling of a homecoming," said Alicia Murphy, the Camp Lejeune OWC president. "People will look at these and be reminded of personal stories; it's very touching."

The idea was conceived more than a year ago, said Nicole

Spaid, New River OWC president. The OWCs commissioned Mills to create the paintings and provided her with ample photos from homecoming ceremonies around the Corps.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Marsha Mills, a local artist commissioned to paint a series of works depicting Marine homecomings, unveils her Station-based work Aug. 7 at the Council for the Arts in downtown Jacksonville.

Mills said she created the two paintings from the families' point of view and plans to paint the next series from the Marines' point of view.

"I want people to look at them and say, 'I remember how my wife looked that day,' or 'I remember my child running up to me,'" said Mills.

Giclee and lithograph prints of the painting are being sold by the two OWCs and proceeds will primarily be used for Marine and Sailor dependents scholarships, said McKenzie Laurence, New River OWC member of the art committee.

The Station's painting, "All's Well," can be viewed at the OWC Open House at the Station Officers Club on Sept. 11. It can be purchased by e-mailing Nicole Spaid at NicoleOWC@aol.com.

The mainside painting, "At Last," can be viewed and purchased by contacting the Camp Lejeune OWC at owcartproject@aol.com.

"It's very exciting," said Spaid. "They turned out phenomenally. These paintings are a legacy and will last forever."

Teter's painting made a lasting impression on Vietnam-era servicemembers, and with operations ongoing in Iraq and Afghanistan, perhaps this local artist will affect a new generation of servicemembers here and around the Corps.

CNATT top grad transitions from '46' to Osprey

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

A large, stuffed, big-mouth bass hangs over a fireplace. A parent's bumper sticker boasts, "My child is an honor student." A recruit stands on a parade deck and is addressed as "Marine." Pride is often an influencing factor when accomplishing great feats.

For Sgt. Melissa L. Hudson, of Ballinger, Texas, her pride as a Marine helped to earn her the honor of being named the top graduate of her class at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit during a graduation ceremony here on Aug. 2.

"I wasn't the class leader, but I wanted to beat the rest of the Marines," she said. "Everybody in the class was really smart, and we all had close averages."

The entire class was within a few hundredths of a percent at the time of graduation, said Cpl. William Prickett, V-22 avionics instructor and a Wichita Falls, Texas native.

Hudson, who was previously an avionics technician at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., had a history of working on fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft, including the CH-46E Sea Knight. She said her background made the class easier to manage.

The course, which is 21 weeks-long and is open only for Marines who have served in the fleet, teaches Marines how to repair the Marine Corps' newest aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey, said Staff Sgt. Jose Alanis, V-22 avionics instructor from Sullivan City, Texas.

"I enjoy working on the V-22 a lot," she said. "It has a lot of new technology and a lot of stuff that has never been seen before in an aircraft."

Hudson was awarded a Certificate of Commendation recognizing her accomplishments as the top CNATT student in her graduating class.

Now, Hudson is putting her knowledge to the test at Marine Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204 where she is helping the Marine Corps make the transition toward tiltrotor technology.

"It is going to be different going from working on helicopters to working on Ospreys. It is an incredible machine, and I'm looking forward to it," she said.

Use a hands-free device or turn cell phone off when driving

Awards and Promotions

Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302

Promotions

Cpl. Tanner
Lance Cpl. Chadwick
Lance Cpl. Craig
Lance Cpl. Hoewich
Lance Cpl. Manglona
Lance Cpl. Monk
Lance Cpl. Stokes

Navy Achievement Medal

Cpl. Boudet

Good Conduct Medal

Cpl. Howard

Certificate of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Countryman

Lance Cpl. Garcia
Lance Cpl. Kleber
Lance Cpl. Peter

Marine Wing Support Squadron-272

Promotions

Sgt. J. Carorodriguez
Sgt. A. Castro
Sgt. C. C. Dean
Sgt. M. B. Featherstone
Sgt. S. M. Jakubowski
Sgt. L. P. Saint
Sgt. J. A. Wagner
Cpl. C. E. Boone
Cpl. J. N. Daum
Cpl. R. C. Davis
Cpl. T. J. Entress Jr.
Cpl. E. P. Franklin

Cpl. S. M. Fredette
Cpl. T. D. Girard
Cpl. A. C. Griffin
Cpl. E. A. Hans
Cpl. C. J. Miller
Cpl. A. J. Nelson
Cpl. P. D. Rathe
Cpl. J. D. Roos
Cpl. D. W. Schrader
Cpl. M. C. Ukaj
Cpl. M. B. Weeks III
Cpl. J. A. Windsor
Lance Cpl. J. R. Anderson
Lance Cpl. S. C. Miller III
Lance Cpl. M. J. Sebring
Lance Cpl. P. L. Tafoya
Lance Cpl. J. W. Thomas

Good Conduct Medal

Master Sgt. J. S. Moore

Gunnery Sgt. J. C. Renard
Gunnery Sgt. M. V. Tarver
Staff Sgt. K. E. Richardson
Staff Sgt. D. E. Washington
Sgt. G. A. Antrican
Sgt. A. B. Carpenter
Sgt. D. A. Hale
Sgt. J. D. Loveless
Sgt. H. E. Ventura
Sgt. S. D. Vereen
Sgt. A. C. Walker
Cpl. J. P. Hannivig
Cpl. J. L. Meadows
Cpl. Y. S. Jefferson
Cpl. C. Reynoso
Cpl. V. J. Santiago
Cpl. E. J. Zinger
Lance Cpl. D. C. Moore
Lance Cpl. J. R. Neely
Lance Cpl. N. J. Palmer
Lance Cpl. P. L. Tafoya

Headquarters and

Headquarters Squadron

Promotions

Sgt. J. G. Forguson
Cpl. D. P. Ciambrone
Cpl. J. L. Hansen
Cpl. J. E. Ludham
Cpl. T. J. Simonds
Lance Cpl. C. C. Fox
Lance Cpl. C. D. Hightower
Lance Cpl. R. Santiago
Pfc. U. Comas
Pfc. E. Fowlkes

Navy Achievement Medal

Sgt. L. Rubirosa

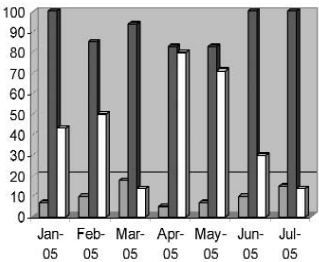
Certificate of Commendation

Sgt. L. Rubirosa

Meritorious Mast

Cpl. C. Long
Lance Cpl. M. Williams Jr.

Station ICE statistics



■ # of Responses
■ % Responded To
□ % Satisfied

The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is a Web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense.

Go to http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=122.

New 'Fighting Griffin' on deck

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Sergeant Major Donald G. de Hagara recently assumed the role of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 sergeant major.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Donald G. Hanagan was the acting sergeant major since Sgt. Maj. Pedro Malu retired in May.

"I came here and saw the Marines engaged in their work," said de Hagara. "They are diligently committed to what has to be done. I'm used to seeing Marines engaged in training exercises, but these Marines can see the results of their hard work."

Born in Belleville, N.J., de Hagara enlisted in June 1979 and trained at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Originally an infantryman, de Hagara climbed through the ranks and by

November 1980 he had been meritoriously promoted to sergeant.

In 1986, de Hagara reported to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he worked as the regimental security section leader, regimental guard chief, Headquarters Company gunnery sergeant and first sergeant. Later that year he was promoted to staff sergeant.

In 1988, he deployed from February to August, and in December 1989 he was selected for Drill Instructor Duty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

From April 1990 to May 1992, de Hagara trained five recruit platoons working as both drill instructor and senior drill instructor.

In June 1992, he reported to Naval ROTC Unit, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., to work as the assistant Marine officer instructor where he advised 155 Navy and Marine Corps midshipman, organized physical training, drill, firearms drill and prepared the Marine option midshipman for Officer Candidates School.

By September 1995, de Hagara, who was then a gunnery sergeant, reported back to Camp Lejeune where he deployed numer-

ous times and was selected for first sergeant.

In December 1999, he reported to the inspector-instructor in Joliet, Ill., where he supervised Marines there, conducted casualty calls, funerals, parades, ceremonies and Toys For Tots. While serving there he was frocked as a sergeant major.

In June 2002, he reported to Recruiting Station Indianapolis to work as the senior enlisted advisor. He was promoted in November

and in June 2005 he returned to the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

His personal awards include the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, third award and the Good Conduct Medal, eighth award.

Recently, de Hagara led the "Fighting Griffins" on their deployment to Iraq.

"This is a good group of

Marines, Sailors, guys and gals," said de Hagara. "Everyone will have to pull their weight and everyone's responsibilities will increase when we are overseas."



Sergeant Major Donald G. de Hagara is the new sergeant major of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 "Fighting Griffins."

MATSS to be home for consolidated IGS

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Marine Aircrew Training Systems Squadron here is implementing a new consolidated instrument ground school for pilots who need to complete their annual training requirements.

According to Barry R. Fetzer, MATSS deputy director, three separate schools have accommodated the three aircraft communities housed here. The rotor wing IGS was run by Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204 handled the MV-22 Osprey school and Station personnel were responsible for the small UC-12 community.

Now, all three will be taught together under the auspices of MATSS.

"The move is intended to standardize and professionalize the process and make the execution much more efficient," Fetzer said.

The combining of the three separate schools and the development of the course curriculum was the task of MATSS civilian contractors Ron W. Ochse and George E. Busfield, both former Marine helicopter pilots.

"Each community has its own needs," said Ochse. "However, we hope that by bringing them together, they can pass on their

experiences and other useful information. I think the new course will be a great benefit."

Fetzer said the school is unique in the Marine Corps, due to fixed wing, rotary wing and tiltrotor pilots conducting joint instrument training.

"It will be the first time for them to learn together and talk together about their instrument flying experiences" he said. "They've never had that opportunity in the past. They can learn a lot from each other and become



courtesy photo

Marine Aircrew Training Systems Squadron here will introduce new procedures to help complete annual training requirements.

better pilots. That's a big advantage of the consolidation."

For the new class, the basic material relating to general aviation will be taught in the morning when all the pilots are in one group, said Ochse.

"We cover air traffic control procedures, aviation physiology and weather conditions; informa-

tion that relates to flying. Then, in the afternoon, we break into smaller groups to cover specific flight plan training for each aircraft," he said.

"Our teaching aids, such as the CD-ROMs and smart boards are state-of-the-art. Without a doubt, this new class is 100 fold better than what was taught before."

Another improvement, according to Busfield, is that when students start the class, they will find the publications used are the latest and most recently revised versions, unlike the ones currently being used.

"We've made sure that we will continue to get the most updated 'pubs' and that students will have completely up-to-date materials to work with."

The consolidation of IGS is just one element of Headquarters Marine Corps' vision for the future of MATSS, said Fetzer.

"We are the prototype," he said. "(Deputy commandant for aviation) Lt. Gen. Micahel Hough and HQMC decided that aviation ground based training should be consolidated under an operational commander, to standardize the processes and act as a funnel for all training requirements, and MATSS is playing a big role in making that happen."

"The future here is bright," he said.

Married CWOs promoted together

Despite oceans of separation, Goff family comes together with VTC

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Promotion ceremonies are made even more special when they can be witnessed by loved ones, but what if two ceremonies are occurring thousands of miles apart?

For the only two married embarkation officers in the Marine Corps, their dual pinning ceremony was broadcast by video teleconfer-

ence between the Marine Aircraft Group-26 headquarters building and Camp Taqaddum Air Base in Iraq, making it possible for deployed Chief Warrant Officer Joanne Goff to see and hear her husband, Chief Warrant Officer Lloyd F. Goff, being pinned by their 4-year-old daughter Nicole. Joanne's family also saw her pinned by her commanding officer in Iraq.

"My wife came up with the

idea," said Lloyd, MAG-29 embarkation officer. "I started working the logistics of it back here, trying to come up with a way to do it."

Joanne, deployed as an embarkation officer with the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C., said she learned of the possibility of a VTC last Father's Day when she saw Marines and Sailors in Camp Fallujah given the opportunity to speak with family back home.

"I looked into it with the (Public Affairs Office) and the (Communications Office) and learned that it was not only feasible, but fairly easy," she said. "My (officer-in-charge), Maj. David R. Gehrlein, supported my decision 100 percent."

Lloyd said the MAG-26 headquarters building was the only place capable of performing the VTC uplink.

"The MAG was excited about doing it when I told them what the situation was," said Lloyd. "I appreciated all the support they offered."

Despite a few initial problems establishing the connection, at approximately 4 p.m. on Aug. 1, a slightly grainy picture appeared on the large television in the MAG-26 VTC room, allowing Lloyd and his two children, Nicole and 3-year-old Kyle, to see the woman who has been missing from their lives



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Chief Warrant Officer Lloyd F. Goff, Marine Aircraft Group-29 embarkation officer, stands with his children Nicole, 4, and Kyle, 3, while speaking by video teleconference to his wife Chief Warrant Officer Joanne Goff. The Goffs are the only two married embarkation officers in the Marine Corps and both were promoted to their present ranks on the same day. The MAG-26 VTC room allowed Lloyd and Joanne to witness each others' promotion despite Joanne's deployment to Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer Lloyd F. Goff, Marine Aircraft Group-29 embarkation officer, is pinned with his new rank by his daughter Nicole, 4. The promotion ceremony took place in the MAG-26 video teleconference room and was witnessed by his wife who is currently deployed to Iraq.

since she left last January.

"I was glad to be able to share this experience with my wife and children, especially with her being

so far away," he said. "My son got kind of emotional when it was over; he wanted his mom. I told him his mom would be home in a couple of weeks."

Joanne said she was also thankful for the chance to share the moment with her husband and children.

"It was a privilege," she said. "Without my husband's love and support, things at home wouldn't be flowing as smoothly as they are. I'm looking forward to returning home in two weeks to reunite with my family again."

VTC Facts

* A video teleconference is a meeting among persons where speech and closed circuit television technologies are utilized simultaneously, as it would be if all parties were in the same room.

* VTC was first demonstrated in 1968.

* Due to many technological advancements, VTC now is common on home computers.

**MAG-26 administrators push
more than paper to ease concerns**



Sgt. Juan Vara

AL ASAD, Iraq - The Marines in the administrative section of Marine Aircraft Group-26 pose for a group photograph accompanied by the group headquarters squadron commanding officer and the group adjutant July 19. Considered the backbone of the group, the administrators work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make life easier for the more than 3,000 servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians in the group. The daily operations of a unit with more than 3,000 members could not be accomplished without someone helping keep its personnel focused on its mission. Under the leadership and guidance of Chief Warrant Officer Rawley H. Colemon, personnel officer from Marvell, Ark., the seven Marines in the section take care of all the group's administrative matters while also maintaining physical fitness standards. According to 1st Lt. Marlisa M. Grogan, MAG-26 adjutant and Wayne, N.J., native, they are always working behind the scenes to keep personnel affairs running efficiently and are the spirit of MAG-26. These Marines are in charge of overseeing 13 squadrons and a United States Army Unit.

Book review: 'The Greatest Generation' by Tom Brokaw

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

The Marine Corps has always held tradition near to its heart.

From the early days of Tun Tavern and the first Commandant, to every war, engagement and accomplishment since, one thing is certain above all else: Marines remember.

World War II is no exception to that rule, either, as we pay tribute to our military predecessors each year with memorials, literature and even

cadences.

But, Marines weren't the only ones to fight, bleed and die during that great war. Alongside them were Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and American citizens.

Which is where Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation," takes us; not into the heart of a specific Soldier, but into the very soul of the Americans who lived during the era.

Brokaw shows us several glimpses into the lives of Americans

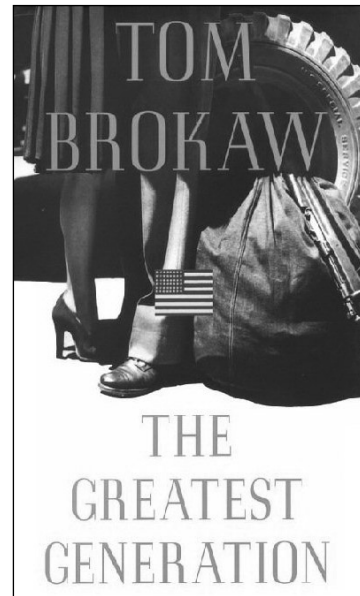
living in the early 1940's, using their stories as the basis for his belief that they truly were "the greatest generation."

He walks us through the Great Depression and World War II, defining with each step a life that knew little more than the struggle to survive and succeed. We see the day-to-day fight, the hardships and let-downs, and the sacrifices made by our forefathers.

The book isn't all about pain and heartache, though. You may find it can give you a new perspective on life, allowing you to discover just what made the people of yesteryear happy. In story after story, the goal to survive, to succeed, to flourish and to live is met despite all the odds against them.

Brokaw combines more than 50 unique and striking stories with a wide variety of photos into a book I believe is well worth reading.

So, take a moment to get in touch with the past and maybe you can see just why Brokaw called these Americans "The Greatest Generation."



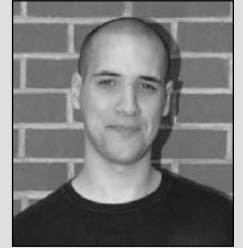
"The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw is a novel dedicated to telling the story of the WWII generation. The book tells the story of the hardships Americans faced during the Great Depression, when people had one main concern - survival.

**Real hard-chargers
read the**

ROTOVUE

Roto View

Do you think NASA is outdated?



"I think NASA is underfunded, and I think the way to improve space exploration and technology is to get private corporations involved with government subsidies - have science piggyback off of industry."

Cpl. Daniel P. Ciambrone
navigational aids technician,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Squadron,
Boston



"I believe we should always try to find something else out there."

Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Roper
ground support equipment
chief
Marine Medium Helicopter
Squadron-365,
Pensacola, Fla.

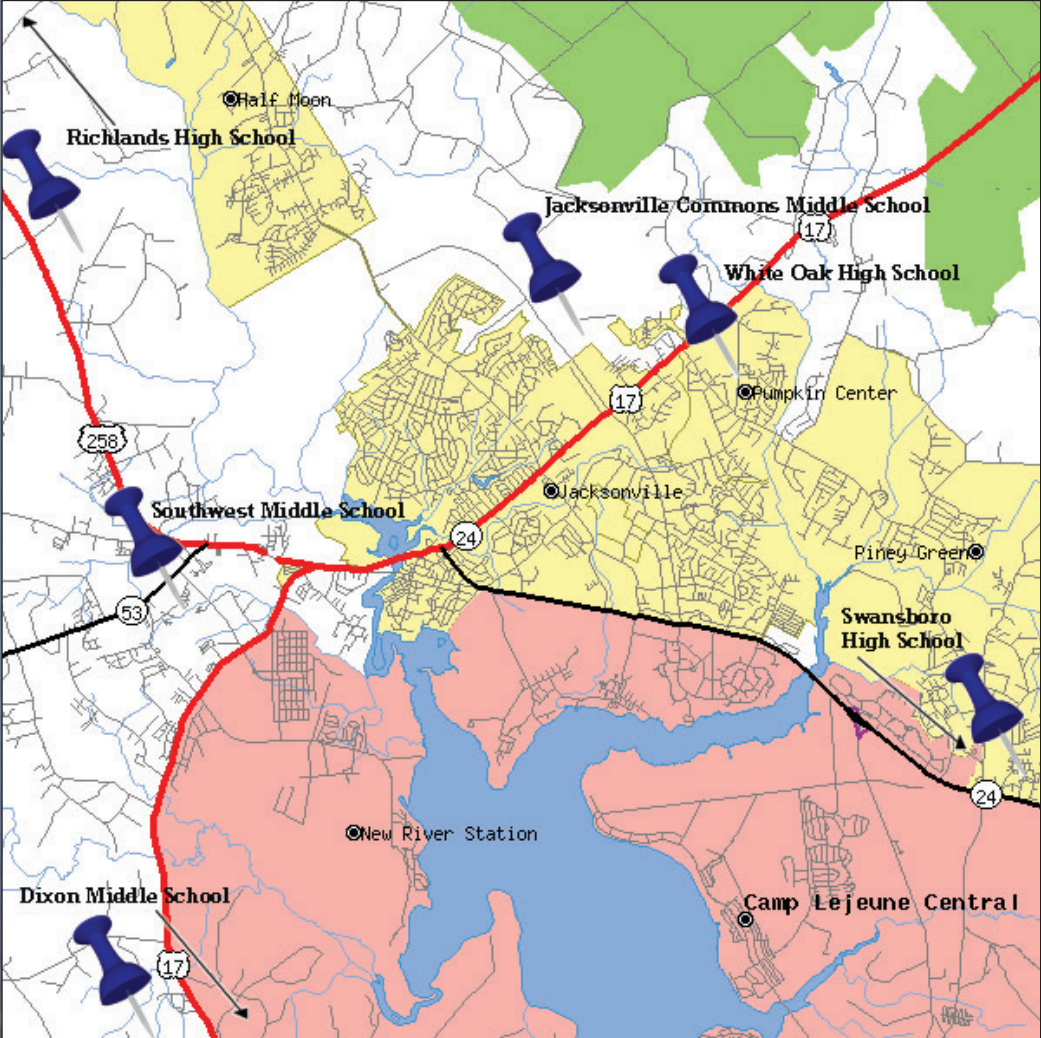


"I do not think NASA is outdated. I think it is a program that we need to continue to put effort into. It's been around for a while, and I think it will be around for a lot longer."

Chief Warrant Officer
Joshua B. Roberts
ordnance officer,
Marine Light/Attack
Helicopter Squadron-167,
El Reno, Okla.

How to prepare yourself, your family, your home for hurricanes

Area Red Cross hurricane shelters



Dixon Middle 200 Dixon School Road Holly Ridge, NC 28445 347-2738	
Jacksonville Commons Middle 315 Commons Drive South Jacksonville, NC 28546 346-6888	
Southwest Middle 3000 Furia Drive Jacksonville, NC 28540 455-1105	
Richlands High 401 Woodson St. Richlands, NC 28574 324-4191	
Swansboro High 161 Queens Creek Rd. Swansboro, NC 28584 326-4300	
White Oak High 1950 Piney Green Road Jacksonville, NC 28546 455-1541	

Station Shelters

Enlisted Club	Bldg. 4038 449-0589 Capacity - 500
Delalio Elementary School	Bldg. TC-1500 449-0601 Capacity - 200
New River Fitness Center	Bldg. AS-4000 449-0294 Capacity - 450

Editor's note: When heading to one of these Station shelters ensure that you take the following items: One (1) box lunch per person, minimum; any special dietary foods and medication; and infant care items such as diapers, bottles, towels, nipples, powder, soap, baby oil and a 24 hour supply of formula. Learn which shelter is closest to your location and do not wait for the hurricane warning before leaving.

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

Each Marine has a home where he or she grew up, but as Marines, we are expected to “fight in every clime and place where we can take a gun.” Marines are no strangers to inclement weather and being on the coast of North Carolina makes it important for Marines here to have an understanding of proper hurricane safety.

According to Marie S. Silence, Station safety specialist, oftentimes people don’t prepare because the hurricane “will probably pass them by.”

The Red Cross Web site, www.redcross.org/services/disaster, states that the terms “hurricane watch” and “hurricane warning” are often confused. The site states a hurricane watch means hurricane conditions are possible, usually within 36 hours; and a hurricane warning means hurricane conditions are expected, usually within 24 hours.

“Be proactive,” said Jesse L. Turner, Station safety specialist and Kinston, N.C., native. “Go ahead and start making preparations now. It’s not a question of ‘if,’ it’s a question of ‘when.’”

“You have plenty of time. It doesn’t hurt to prepare for nothing; it hurts to not prepare for something,” Silence, a native of Jacksonville, N.C., explained.

An important and often neglected step when preparing for a hurricane is ensuring the safety of your pets.

According to a pamphlet written by the Onslow County Animal Response Team titled “Saving the Whole Family, What you can do to Protect your Pets in a Disaster,” the best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your

pets – their lives depend on you.

“Most of the time people don’t think to bring their pets inside during a hurricane, or to a shelter if they evacuate,” Turner explained. “Animals are just as vulnerable to adverse weather conditions as we are.”

According to Silence, if given the word from authorities to evacuate, you should already have prior knowledge of evacuation routes and facilities.

“If you know you’re planning on evacuating your home and going to a shelter, don’t wait to do it. Review the route ahead of time, have an alternate route and don’t wait until the last minute,” she said. “Too many times people are afraid to leave and call emergency services to come help them evacuate.”

“People need to be aware that there comes a point and time during a storm, or any natural disaster, where the emergency services are cut off. There’s a point in which the dangers of the weather become a liability for the first-responders,” Turner added. “If the rain is blowing sideways and the shingles are flying off the roof, you’re probably ten hours too late.”

For more information about what to do before, during or after a hurricane, go to www.redcross.org. The Station Safety Office can also assist. Call them at 449-5440.

The Red Cross web site lists seven important items to have in your kit:

- First aid kit and all essential medications.
- Canned food and hand-operated can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.

The Station Safety Office has a list of several important steps to prepare your home for a hurricane:

- Inspect your yard and property for potential problems that may cause damage during a hurricane.
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs.
- Move or secure any objects that could become airborne during high winds; bring inside any outdoor furniture, decorations or ornaments, trashcans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by the wind. If possible, also remove outdoor antennas.
- Consider installing protection for windows such as plywood panels of half-inch thickness. Note: Tape does not prevent windows from breaking. Taping windows is not recommended.
- Board up garage and porch doors.
- Wedge sliding glass doors to prevent them from lifting from their cracks. Check and secure mobile structure tie-downs.

Flags: What they mean

	Small-craft advisory Winds: 18-33 knots 28-38 mph
	Gale warning Winds: 34-47 knots 39-54 mph
	Storm warning Winds: 48-63 knots 55-73 mph
	Hurricane warning Winds: 64+ knots 74+ mph

These flags are usually seen during the hurricane season flying from places such as U.S. Coast Guard stations and some marinas. The flags date back to the days before radio storm warnings when such flags were the only way to warn those aboard ships. One of the square flags warns mariners that a storm warning has been posted. A storm warning means winds between 48-63 knots (55-73 mph) are likely within 24 hours. Two flags mean that a hurricane warning is in effect and winds equal or greater to 64 knots (74 mph) are likely within 24 hours. Dangerous conditions include rough seas and winds of 18-33 knots (28-32 mph). When two pennants are hoisted, one below the other, a gale warning is in effect and is issued when winds blow between 34 and 47 knots (39-54 mph).

(Right) A model depicting the most destructive hurricane in American history, Hurricane Andrew.

Each year, there is a pre-approved list of names for tropical storms and hurricanes. These lists have been generated by the National Hurricane Center since 1953. At first, the lists consisted of only female names; however, since 1979, the lists alternate between male and female. Hurricanes are named alphabetically from the list in chronological order for 2005: Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince and Wilma.

courtesy photo

Hurricane safety precautions

When under the advisement of a hurricane warning or other severe weather conditions, there are several safety precautions necessary to perform in order to minimize injuries and property damage. The following list of safety precautions are not to be considered the only measures necessary. Common sense and the requirements on scene may dictate additional actions that need to be taken.

During the Hurricane

If the center or “eye” of the storm passes directly over your position, there will be a lull in the wind lasting a few minutes to a half hour or more. Stay in a safe place, leaving only to make emergency repairs. The wind will return suddenly from the opposite direction, frequently with greater violence.

Remember to remain calm and remain indoors during the storm. Make sure that a window or door can be opened on the leeward side of the house – the side opposite the one facing the wind. Stay away from windows and try to remain in leeward-side rooms. Use essential electrical appliances and the minimum of lighting fixtures. Expect power to be turned off as the severity of the storm increases.

After the Hurricane

Do not leave your residence or operate a vehicle until the “all clear” is given by the Destructive Weather Operations Center. Do not touch loose or dangling wires and report broken sewer or water mains. Guard against spoiled food in refrigerators if power has been off any length of time by minimizing entry inside to retain coldness within. Unless you are qualified to render emergency assistance, stay clear of disaster areas where you might hamper relief efforts, rescue work and first aid.

Drive automobiles cautiously, steering clear of debris. Along the coast, soil may be washed from beneath the pavement, resulting in a collapse under the weight of a vehicle. Be alert to prevent fires. Lowered water pressure makes fire fighting difficult after a storm. Additional safety precautions should be taken as required based on the needs of a given situation. The guidelines above are considered general in nature only.

Before the Hurricane

Keep the radio or television on and listen for the latest weather bureau warning and advisories. Personnel should contact their unit for instructions and watch LCTV-10 and other broadcasts for updated information.

Pay no attention to rumors and have a portable radio and extra batteries handy. Stay away from low-lying beaches or other locations which may be swept over by high tides or storm waves. If passage to high ground is over a road likely to be underwater, leave as early as possible. Do not run the risk of being stranded.

If your quarters, home or barracks are out of danger from high tides and is well built, it’s probably the best place to weather the storm. Be sure to stock extra food, especially items that can be eaten without cooking or with little preparation.

If you plan on going to a Station shelter, pack one box lunch per person as a minimum, along with any special dietary foods, medication, clothing and infant care items (i.e., diapers, bottles, towels, nipples, powder, soap and a 24 hour supply of formula).

Check to ensure butane or kerosene camping stoves and fireplaces are in good working order for emergency cooking. Canned heat may also be used. Store a supply of water for drinking and other purposes by filling bathtubs, bottles and cooking utensils, such as pots and pans. Keep flashlights and other emergency lights in working order and close at hand along with batteries and first aid supplies.

Be sure to have gasoline in your car and fasten or remove all items that might be blown away or torn

Servicemembers in Al Asad honor fallen warriors

Story and photos by
Sgt. Juan Vara

AL ASAD, Iraq -- Dozens of servicemembers here gathered July 21 to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice during the course of their duties in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

During a small ceremony inside the military support complex, one of the streets aboard the air base was dedicated as Memorial Lane in honor of those whose lives have been lost.

Army Col. George R. Harris, commander of the 326th Area Support Group and native of Leavenworth, Kan., said one particular warrior honored during the ceremony was Cpl. Andrew D. Brownfield, from Summit, Ohio, who was killed here last year.



"We are here to honor all those who have given their lives for the cause of freedom in Iraq, yet I single out Corporal Brownfield for two reasons," said Harris. "The spot where this Marine gave his life for the Global War on Terrorism is here, and one of his close friends from [Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26] is here with us today and will help unveil our sign."

Sergeant Edwin E. Medina-Acevedo, an aviation supply clerk from Miami, met Brownfield here last year, and the two became good friends. He was asked by an acquaintance in the area support group to take part in the dedication ceremony.

"I'm honored to be here and I'm moved to see this is for Cpl. Brownfield and all others who have been lost," said Medina-Acevedo.

Among the guests of honor at the ceremony were Air Force Maj. Gen. Bill Essex, commander of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Bethel, Ohio, native and Brig. Gen. Robert E. Milstead Jr., 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

(Above) Marines and Soldiers observe the re-designation of a road in Al Asad air base on July 21. The road's name was changed to Memorial Lane and was created to remember all of the troops who paid the ultimate price while serving in Iraq.

(Left) Sergeant Edwin E. Medina-Acevedo, an aviation supply clerk from Miami assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26, unveils the Memorial Lane sign assisted by one of the Soldiers from the 326th Area Support Group on July 21.

(Forward) commanding general.

"When we lose friends there's often a concern that they are lost, gone and soon forgotten," said Milstead, a native of Abilene, Texas. "Times like today dispel that concern. No greater honor exists than to protect that which we cherish most -- our faith, our families, our freedoms, our values, our way of life -- many individually different, yet each distinctly American."

"We participate in a cause with honor that we will look back on with pride. Just as generations before us, we too have a responsibility to the future. Our fallen brothers and sisters have met that responsibility head on, they have held the standard high, and we are all the better for it."

The servicemembers whose lives have been lost establishing a free Iraq will be in the minds of Al Asad residents as they stroll down Memorial Lane. Their sacrifice demonstrates that freedom is never free and serves as encouragement for others who continue to forge a brighter future for the people of Iraq.



Brigadier Gen. Robert E. Milstead Jr., 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) commanding general, Air Force Maj. Gen. Bill Essex, commander of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Army Col. George R. Harris, commander of the 326th Area Support Group, salute as a member of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band plays 'Taps' during the unveiling of the Memorial Lane sign July 21. One of the streets aboard the air base was dedicated in honor of those whose lives have been lost in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

CRIME Stoppers

- * Report crime anywhere in our community.
- * Caller never reveals his/her identity.
- * Pays **CASH** rewards up to \$2,500.00.
- * Information must lead to arrest and indictment.
- * Reward is collected through code system.

Call the local 24 hour hot line **938-3273**

Jacksonville Police Department, Marine Corps Community Services Camp Lejeune, MCCS New River and Onslow County present...



Photo by Pfc. John D. Cranford

Guests at the National Night Out walk the streets of downtown Jacksonville on Aug. 2. The National Night Out is an annual event held to bring the Jacksonville community together. This year's event featured live music, a classic car show and a fireworks display.

"Top Bananas Entertainment"

Comedy Night

AUGUST 16, 2005

MCAS ENLISTED CLUB

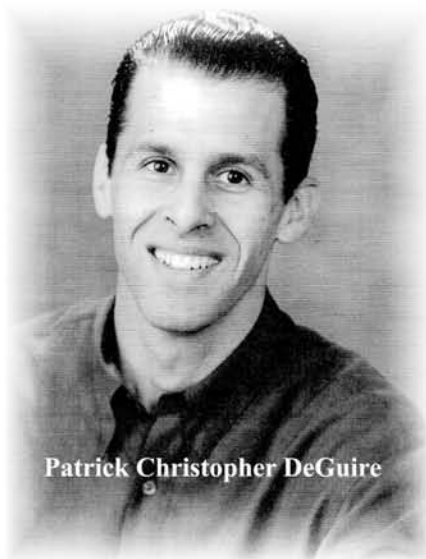
SHOW starts 2000 - 2200

Active Duty Free

Others pay \$5

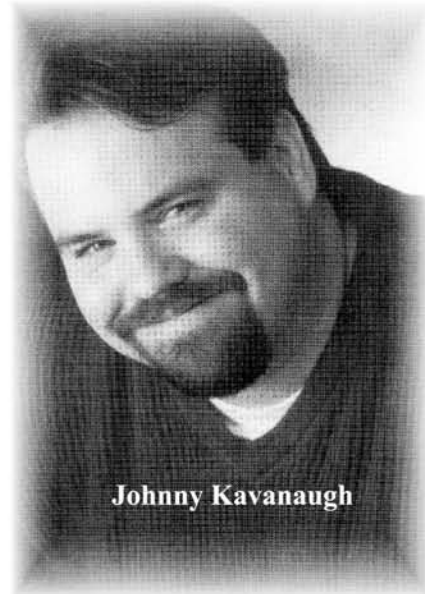


For more
information,
call 449-5846.



Patrick Christopher DeGuire

DeGuire, a tall, skinny Latino, lost his vision, he figured he could either become a comic, or feel sorry for himself. Today, Patrick DeGuire is one of San Diego's busiest comics. He likes to keep the crowd in stitches during his entire act. I feel as though my comedy is fresh and insightful. It's about living in a world with a significant disability and the challenges that come with it. I talk about marriage, raising four young children as a stay home father and social and ethnic issues. I truly feel that laughter is the best form of medicine. Life is too short to take it too seriously.



Johnny Kavanaugh

Warning ... if you don't like being singled out by a comic, don't sit anywhere near the front. But, if you're a good sport you've got to do it. It could make the night unforgettable for the audience and performers.

Johnny Kavanaugh is one of the brightest minds in contemporary stand-up. He comes from the old school of comedy. The days when one liners had punchlines. Johnny combines amusing insights with word play and physical comedy that gets you laughing. With a burst of energy and a big IRISH Smile Johnny Kavanaugh hits the stage. Whether his is firing off one liners, verbally strolling through silly stories, It's a party when he is on stage.

Sponsored by:



Coach Willie moves on, retires to continue his dream

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

His program was unique. He taught Station youngsters how to dribble, shoot and pass, but made sure the respect the kids had for themselves and other players extended past the handshake at the end of the game.

Willie Stevens, the Rotoball Basketball Camp coach, is moving on.

"New River is a tight knit community," Stevens said. "The people of New River are tremendous; we're all one big family. I've been to (Naval Station) Great Lakes and coached at all sorts of locations, but this is the best one. New River is second-to-none, and it's hard for me to leave."

Stevens began coaching here six years ago and it didn't take parents long to notice his style of coaching.

"He's a basketball coach who teaches the kids about values," said Gunnery Sgt. Stanley Powell, a parent and Marine and Family Service Center staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The kids learn about discipline while they're having fun."

"I try to teach kids the most important lessons they need to learn are respect for their parents, academics, teamwork and self-respect," explained Stevens. "I believe no child is untouchable when it comes to learning."

Through the years, Stevens has coached more than 7,000 kids, he said. Of those children, 85 percent went to college, 62 percent earned athletic scholarships and 81 percent worked to win academic scholarships.

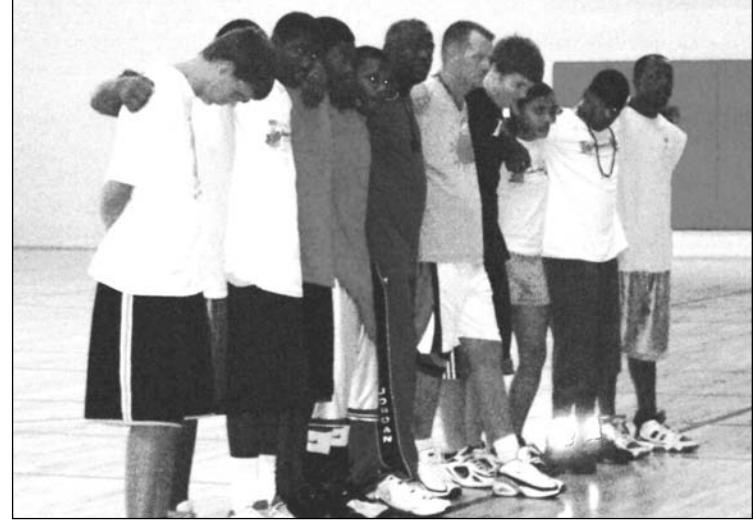
"This program won't change," said Gunnery Sgt. Dean Manning, incoming coach and Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training operations chief. "The core will remain. This program is all about the kids because they're what's important."

As for Stevens, he is moving to Houston, where he plans to start his own business continuing his dream of being a children's basketball coach.

"'First Team' is my business' name," he said. "I'm trying to take what we have here - the spiritual magic - and build on it. I'll coach three-day camps, and I'll go wherever I'm needed."

Stevens said part of what made the program so special was the support he received from his friends and the Marine Corps Community Services office.

For more information about "First Team" camps and availability, e-mail coach Willie Stevens at mrwst2003@yahoo.com.



courtesy photo

Coach Willie Stevens, Rotoball Basketball Camp coach, (center), hugs volunteer assistant coaches during his last practice aboard the Air Station on July 22. Many of the volunteer coaches were children who, at one time, were enrolled in his basketball program. His program was unique because he emphasized respect and accountability as much as passing or dribbling.

Upcoming athletic events in local community

Compiled by
RotoVue staff

The Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department is conducting a series of athletic events and youth sports camps for children who live in the Jacksonville area.

The Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick Competition is a program which creates a lively and engaging forum for boys and girls ages 8 - 15 to compete separately against their peers in punting, passing and place kicking skills.

This event is co-hosted by the Jacksonville Recreation and Parks Department as well as the Jacksonville Raiders Semi-Professional Football Team.

The competition is free and is being held on Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. at Jack Amyette Ball Field.

Registration is at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or e-mail requests for a form along with your name to jssdavis@earthlink.net.

For more information, contact Melody Strickland at 938-2538 or via e-mail at mstrickland@ci.jacksonville.nc.us or Karol Davis at 358-0578 or via e-mail at jssdavis@earthlink.net.

The Youth Football Camp is being held Aug. 22 - 24 from 8 a.m. to noon for kids ages 7 - 17 at Jack Amyette Ball Field.

The deadline to enter the camp is Aug. 17.

Registration fees for the camp are \$30 per person.

Registration is at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information, call Melody Strickland at 938-2538.

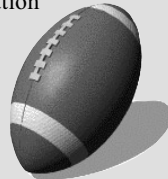
The Youth Cheerleading Camp is being held Aug. 22 - 24 from 8 a.m. to noon for children ages 7 - 17 at the Jack Amyette Ball Field.

The deadline to enter this camp is Aug. 17.

Registration fees for the camp are \$30 per person.

Registration will take place at the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Complex weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information, call Melody Strickland at 938-2538.



John Gunn's military sports highlights: Marine Iraq vets to play football

After two tours of duty in Iraq, a three-month football season doesn't seem so imposing for two Appalachian State, N.C., players.

Wayne Norman and Brian Stokes, two 26-year-old freshmen, will take the field for the Division I-AA Mountaineers this fall.

"When we open the season against Eastern Kentucky, on each side of that kicker is going to be a Marine running down the middle of that field," Coach Jerry Moore of the Mountaineers said.

Having served four years in 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Norman and Stokes endured experiences that few 18-year-old, freshmen could comprehend. They were shipped to Iraq and returned last year as things were heating up in Falluja, the Winston-Salem Journal reported.

Both attained the rank of sergeant and are now living out their dream of playing college football. They were applauded by the rest of the team when they were introduced last spring.

"As with anything, we've gained a lot of confidence by being over there," Stokes said. "You lead 25 troops in a firefight, that should tell you that you're capable of doing anything you want if you put your mind to it."

Stokes, a Shrine Bowl selection from Burlington Williams High, went to East Carolina in 1997 as an invited walk-on but tore a tendon in a finger and didn't play.

Norman, a two-way starter in high school, enrolled at his home-state University of Massachusetts for a year, said the Journal.

Both faced financial hardship and left college after a year. They worked for a while, then joined the Corps in 2000 with the intention of returning to college afterward with the aid of the GI Bill.

Norman and Stokes met at Camp Geiger right after basic training and hit it off immediately.

In 2002, they began a nine-month deployment to Kosovo, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates. They wound up in Iraq in March 2003 and stayed there 45 days.

"We were actually on our way back to Lejeune when the war started," Norman said. "Everybody was happy about that, and then it was, 'Guess what, we're turning the boat around.'"

Norman and Stokes said that their unit encountered little resistance once there, but that changed in a seven-month follow-up assignment beginning in March 2004. They encountered particularly heavy fighting when approaching Falluja, the Journal said.

"The second time, I couldn't count how many bullets I felt fly by," Stokes said. "We were in probably over 30 firefight engagements, and I don't know how many road-side bombings. And every day there was a mortar attack."

Stokes lost some of his hearing

during one attack and has applied for a purple heart. "A 100-kilogram bomb blew up about five feet from my armored truck," Stokes said. "The impact blew the 300-pound doors open."

Both completed active duty last November, although they remain on reserve and could be recalled. Stokes, who wanted to attend Appalachian out of high school, decided to pursue football again and confirmed he would have at least two or three years of eligibility remaining.

Norman, who is 5' 11", 215lbs., nailed down a spot on punt coverage, and Stokes, who is 6' 1", 220lbs., on both kickoff teams during spring drills, said the Journal.

"We know we're not going to go out and start right away, but maybe in a year or two, we might learn the defense enough or the offensive schemes to be able to compete at that level," Stokes said.

"It's a little bit physically demanding because we have aged a bit and we're competing with kids out of high school, but it's not that bad," Norman said.

Editor's note: Gunn is a member of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn., 2nd Marine Division Assn., Marine Corps Intelligence Assn., Marine Corps Aviation Assn., Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Marine Corps League, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and LST-325.

Commandant, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visit Al Asad



Sgt. Juan Vara

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, talks to Marines and Sailors deployed to Al Asad airbase July 25 during a tour of II Marine Expeditionary Force's area of responsibility. Accompanying the Commandant on the tour was Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, the sergeant major of the Marine Corps. Marines and Sailors from various units had breakfast with Hagee and Estrada and hosted them for a short visit at their work stations. Hagee noted the bravery of the young Marines and thanked those at the base for "the sacrifices they and their families are making."

26th MEU Marines return to 'home at sea'

ARABIAN GULF -- Following "distributed operations" ashore, Marines and Sailors of Fox Company, Echo Company and India Battery, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 8th Marines, made their way back to the amphibious transport dock USS Ponce (LPD 15) and the dock landing ship USS Ashland July 23.

The Marines and Sailors were among several hundred troops from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) who have been conducting operations throughout the north Arabian Gulf region over the past few months.

The troops were first transported from shore to the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge.

Marines from the MEU's amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) attachment then splashed their tracked vehicles from USS Ponce to pick up the troops from Fox Company while the Echo Company and India Battery troops returned to USS Ashland via a landing craft, air cushioned (LCAC).

The 26th MEU (SOC) will continue its primary mission as the Central Command theater reserve through August while continuing exercises with host nations in the region.

An extra shot of religion

Lt. Doug McCormick
Marine Aircraft Group-29 assistant chaplain



I was at Muddy's Coffee shop this past week and asked for the "Chaplainzilla." The "chaplain" is a drink that I get every day, and the "zilla" is extra shots of espresso to get me going in the morning.

In our own religious walk, many times we need to have that extra "shot" or time to spend with God; a time to jumpstart our own religious walk. I believe, it should begin in the morning, in which I take a moment to reflect on God and to reflect on what God wants me to do that day.

As a chaplain, I believe in incarnational ministry, which means getting out and being on the flight line.

During my devotional time, I was reading a story in "Christian Single" a magazine dedicated to singles. The story talks about a pastor going into a coffee shop to get his cup of coffee in which he does every morning, there were two women behind the counter in deep discussion.

They did not notice the pastor and he yelled out, "Hey, can a man get a cup of coffee in here?"

She replied, "Clergy, you are a man of the cloth; be patient and keep your mouth shut." He ordered his coffee and asked these compelling questions.

"Do you care what I believe?"

"No" she replied.

"Do you care what I know?"

"No," she replied.

"Do you care how I act?"

"Yes! That's the problem I have; its how

you act. You're always expressing what you're against. It seems you should spend more time showing what you're for - like love and helping people - and stop getting down on people so much," she answered.

This story made me stop and think, many times we may call ourselves religious people, but how do we act? Does our actions speak of our walk with God? Do we arrive to work on time? Do we attempt to do our very best at whatever you do? Are you trying to improve yourself and your knowledge in your military occupational specialty? Are you truthful? Does your character reflect who you are spiritually? Are you a different person on Sunday morning vice Monday morning? Do you look out for others?

Do your actions reflect your walk?

Do you need an extra shot of spirituality?

Our faith should make us better Marines, Sailors, spouses, friends, etc.

As a Christian chaplain, I will end with the writing of St. Paul to the Church of Ephesus.

"Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord..."

Our commitments to our work also reflect our commitments to God.

Memorial Chapel services

Sunday Services

Catholic 9 a.m.
Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.



Combat stress stands no chance on Station

New combat stress brief alleviates battle pressures

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Fighting the Global War on Terrorism can be a devastating experience, but with assistance from the Marine and Family Service Center here, Marines and Sailors are getting help coping with the stress incurred while deployed.

Unraveling the emotions and stress of combat is the objective of the new combat stress brief.

The brief was created to help curtail climbing statistics that prove classes of this sort are needed, said Gunnery Sgt. Stanley Powell, MFSC non commissioned officer-in-charge.

According to the Headquarters Marine Corps statistics, suicides among troops have risen 29 percent within in the last year. The increase is believed to be in relation to high operational tempo.

"The Marine Corps is recognizing this problem," said Powell. "Our intention here is to raise awareness; that way we can take care of it before it gets to be serious."

According to an informational brochure about combat stress, common

symptoms of combat related stress include: jumpiness, poor concentration, forgetfulness, hyperactivity, fatigue and headaches.

The pamphlet also states, combat stress effects Marines mentally, physically, emotionally and behaviorally.

The brief can be scheduled for both pre- and post-deployed troops.

Giving the brief to troops about to be deployed ensures the warning signs are noticed and can be properly addressed immediately instead of wait-

ing for the Marines to return from the war zone, said Powell.

"People need to know that these feelings are normal; they don't need to hold them inside," said Powell.

Lasting approximately 20 to 30 minutes, the brief is being held on a monthly basis in MFSC classrooms

Gen. M. W. Hagee

and can be scheduled for individual shops, sections or entire squadrons, said Powell.

"We will continue to host these briefs as long as they are a success. If we have one Marine who shows up for each class then it was a success," said Powell.

For more information about combat stress or to schedule the brief, contact Powell at 449-6110.

"As our Marines return from combat, commanders must ensure that they are prepared to successfully meet the challenges involved in returning from deployment and reuniting with their loved ones."

Marine and Family Service Center

Retired Affairs

Each Wednesday and Friday
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The retired affairs representative can provide retired servicemembers and their spouses with information regarding benefits, entitlements, privileges and legal assistance. No appointments necessary.

Play Morning

Each Thursday
9:30 to 11 a.m.

Youth Community Center

Play morning is a time for mom and dad to have fun with their children age six and under.

For more information, please call New Parent Support Program at 451-5286.

Keystone Meetings for Teens

Each 1st and 3rd Friday
6 to 7 p.m.

This is a Boys and Girls Club Program that offers an opportunity to gain leadership

skills, participate in and earn community service hours as well as social activities.

Come voice suggestions and plan events. On the third Friday of each month, a teen-selected prevention topic is presented.

Kids With Deployed Parents Workshop

Thursday
3:30 to 5 p.m.

This is a workshop for kids to get together, talk and make crafts to send to their deployed parent.

Raising Children in a Non-Violent Home Part II

Aug. 16
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Through role playing exercises and practical techniques, guests can learn conflict resolution.

Please call to reserve a seat.

Transition Assistance Program

Aug. 17 and 18

7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A two-day career options workshop, which helps assess knowledge, skills and abilities and apply military acquired skills in the civilian employment sector.

Topics include resume preparation, job search, interview skills, dress standards, job negotiations and much more.

Pre-registration required through unit transition counselors.

Effects of Divorce and Remarriage on Children

Aug. 23
1:30 to 4 p.m.

A workshop for adults focusing on the possible impact on children when they are coping with the painful breakup of their family.

Topics include reactions of children of different ages, things children need to know and hear, tips for the single and the non-custodial parent, and what both parents can do to help their children adjust to the loss and

changes involved.

Adjustment to step-parents is also addressed.

Please call to reserve a seat.

Pre-Separation Brief

Aug. 24
7:15 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

This mandated brief covers all required information for the servicemember and spouse separating from the military.

Topics discussed include: pay entitlements, Veterans Affairs benefits, financial management, educational opportunities, transportation of household goods, job service and more.

Pre-registration is mandatory through the unit transition counselor.

For more information about programs or to pre-register for one of the classes, call 449-6110/6185 or visit our Web site at <http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcasnr/fsc/fschome.htm>.

FEATHERNECK CRAIG H. STREETER



To tell you the truth, right now I don't care *HOW* they look...I'm more concerned about *WHERE* they look!

Safety Office Snippets

School bus safety

With a new school year approaching, many kids will be riding buses. Safety is a big concern for those operating these automobiles as well as those driving near school buses.

The greatest risk isn't while riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. It is essential that drivers know the rules:

When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or bicycling to school.

When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be focused on getting to school but may not be thinking about safety.

Slow down. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops or walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks.

Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may

dart into the street without looking for oncoming traffic.

Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state.

Get the children to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive, doing this will prevent children from having to chase a bus.

When the bus approaches, have them stand at least six feet away from the curb and line up away from the street.

Instruct children to wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.

If children have to cross the street in front of the bus, instruct them to walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least ten feet ahead of the bus before they cross. Be sure the bus driver can see them and they can see the bus driver.

Station Theater Movies

Aug. 10 - 27

Day/Date	Time	Title	Rating	Length	
Wed. Aug. 10	7 p.m.	The Perfect Man	PG	101	min.
Fri. Aug. 12	7 p.m.	The Perfect Man	PG	101	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Land of the Dead	R	93	min.
Sat. Aug. 13	7 p.m.	The Perfect Man	PG	101	min.
	9:30 p.m.	War of the Worlds	PG-13	112	min.
Sun. Aug. 14	3 p.m.	Land of the Dead	R	93	min.
	6 p.m.	War of the Worlds	PG-13	112	min.
Mon. Aug. 15	1 p.m.	Shrek 2 (Free matinee)	PG	92	min.
	7 p.m.	War of the Worlds	PG-13	112	min.
Wed. Aug. 17	7 p.m.	Bewitched	PG-13	102	min.
Fri. Aug. 19	7 p.m.	Herbie Fully Loaded	G	96	min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Island	PG-13	138	min.
Sat. Aug. 20	7 p.m.	Herbie Fully Loaded	G	96	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Bewitched	PG-13	102	min.
Sun. Aug. 21	3 p.m.	Herbie Fully Loaded	G	96	min.
	6 p.m.	Bewitched	PG-13	102	min.
Mon. Aug. 22	7 p.m.	The Island	PG-13	136	min.
Wed. Aug. 24	7 p.m.	Dark Water	PG-13	111	min.
Fri. Aug. 26	7 p.m.	Rebound	PG	87	min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Island	PG-13	138	min.
Sat. Aug. 27	7 p.m.	Rebound	PG	87	min.
	9:30 p.m.	Dark Water	PG-13	111	min.



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins.

Movies and times are subject to change.

For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.



For Whom the Bell Tolls

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

Taupe walls. Doctor's offices always seem to have beige, soothing taupe walls. They're supposed to comfort patients and offer shelter from a coming storm. But when the bell tolls and physicians transform from white-coated wise men into black-cloaked skeletons sporting reapers, it hardly matters what color the walls are.

For Cpl. Joshua E. Getts, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 expediter and Bloomington, Ind., native, the storm he weathered made landfall in the form of a lump, and when the bell tolled his name, his reaper grimly whispered "cancer" with dusty breath.

"I'm going to die, this is bad," explained Getts. "I thought, 'This has to be something else.' I had this sinking feeling for a good ten minutes before I went into a cold sweat."

A year ago

A physical freak, built on the kind of hard work only the insane can enjoy, Getts said he always maxed his physical fit-



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Corporal Joshua E. Getts, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 expediter, and his wife, Ruthie, are both cancer survivors. Ruthie overcame a tumor at the age of two, and Getts is enduring an everyday fight with bone cancer. He became aware of a lump on his shoulder while deployed in Afghanistan. Unable to perform a Marine Corps physical fitness test, he has turned to bicycling.

ness test and once recorded a time of 14 minutes on the three-mile run. While deployed last year with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, he claimed to have been forced to run on the deck of the U.S.S. Wasp after burning out the motors on several treadmills.

While serving with the MEU in Afghanistan in June 2004, he noticed a lump on the back of his left shoulder, and, in true Marine Corps tradition, ignored it. Later, while running, his knee became swollen and he was forced to make a medical appointment where, in passing, he mentioned the lump.

Two hours later, Getts was on a plane headed for Germany. He wasn't told why. His final destination was a Washington, D.C. medical center and the bad news -- he had developed bone cancer.

'Running was my thing'

"They replaced most of the bones in my shoulder," said Getts. "I'd never had to stay in the hospital for more than one day. Everything blurred for a couple of weeks. It was surreal."

In the past year Getts has been through four surgeries, including work on his knee that claimed his joints ability to absorb the impact encountered during running. After his surgery, Getts plunged into a depression after realizing he would never physically be the same. His days of running were over.

"Running was my thing," said Getts. "After a month of sitting and the obligatory depression, I read about Lance Armstrong."

Getts said that he read "It's Not About the Bike" by Armstrong "two or three" times and found a source of inspiration. Armstrong had recovered from cancer to dominate professional cycling and he felt that he could do the same.

"I watched the Tour (de France) everyday," explained Getts. "I studied cycling, everything about cycling. Once I was better, I rode as much as possible."

'This is OK, I can do this'

Getts is an avionics mechanic by trade who's unable to work on aircraft. The physical phenomenon that used to run marathons can't get around on the helicopters anymore. But his Marine heart won't allow him to quit.

On July 29-30, Getts participated in "24 Hours of Booty," a 24-hour race over a three-mile course in Charlotte, N.C., called "Booty Loop."

He planned to ride a total of 400 miles during the race or 20 miles per hour for 24 hours.

However, he came up short of his goal. He only rode a measly 390 miles, a distance that shattered the previous race record by 64 miles.

"I'm not surprised at all," said Getts' best friend, Cpl. James W. Ashbaucher, a Military Police Company, K-9 unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C., military dog handler. "He has a bigger heart and is more determined than any other Marine I've met in my life."

Getts' can-do spirit can be traced to lessons he's learned as a Marine.

"I've learned a lot about discipline and about not being afraid," said Getts. "For one split second I thought I was going to die. Then I thought, 'This is OK, I can do this.' After that, I knew I wasn't going to die."

'She kicked cancer in the face'

Getts is focused on raising money for cancer research



courtesy photo

Corporal Joshua E. Getts, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 expediter, readies himself for "24 Hours of Booty," a charity race held July 29-30 in Charlotte, N.C., in which he set a new record of 390 miles traveled in 24 hours.

and hopes to one day start a cancer foundation for service-members he describes as, "in worse shape than I am."

The prospects for such a foundation appear almost definite, as he was able to raise almost \$4,000 for the Armstrong Foundation and Brain Cancer Research of North Carolina through squadron and Marine Aircraft Group-29 contributions, individual Marines donations and online pledges supporting his race efforts.

Although cancer research would certainly benefit his own health, Getts knows all too well the devastating effects cancer can have on those close to you. His wife, Ruthie, from Milford, Pa., is also a cancer survivor.

Diagnosed with a Wilms tumor at age two, Ruthie endured the surgeries and chemotherapy that young ones often never recover from.

She explains that three other children were diagnosed with a Wilms tumor around the same time as her, and she remains the lone survivor.

"You know you can beat the odds," she said. "It's the same with my husband. I've seen him face many challenges, but he's never backed down from a single thing. That whole phrase, 'live strong;' if there's anything or words that describe him, that's it."

"She kicked cancer in the face and it made her tougher. She's a big part of my life," added Getts.

Marine to the core

"I had another tumor taken out a few weeks ago," said Getts. "Every morning I wake up, I hit the snooze twice. I have absolute pain like an old man, but I won't take pain medication. For Marines, we want to get back in the fight, so it's like, 'I'm fine, even though I lost an arm.' For me, I have cancer, but it's about getting the job done."

The bell may toll for Getts' Marine Corps career, but the reaper's going to have to wait for the rest. His life is far from over.

Getts plans to work in a bicycle shop and put some more miles on his own, to see if "he can make it a go somewhere."

"I can still walk away with a good feeling about (the Marine Corps)," said Getts. "I did the best that I could. If it wasn't for my medical condition, I easily could have made a career of this."

"I'll always be a Marine."